

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /008 R

66615

DRAFTED BY EA/PRCM:DLFIELD, JR.: CED

APPROVED BY EA/PRCM:TSBROOKS

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R 242359Z MAY 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO RUMJDH/AMCONSUL HONG KONG 0000

USLO PEKING

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COL REPEAT NOUAKCHOTT 586 SENT ACTION SECSTATE

INFO ABIDJAN DAKAR BAMAKO BONN EC BRUSSELS PARIS

ROME OTTAWA USUN NEW YORK MAY 20

QTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NOUAKCHOTT 586

AIDAC

PARIS FOR HELMAN

BRUSSELS FOR USEC

EO 11652: NA

SUBJECT: OMVS DONOR CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 89583

SUMMARY. OMVS EXPECTS DONORS ATTENDING JULY MEETING IN NOUAKCHOTT TO MAKE SPECIFIC FUNDING COMMITMENTS RE FINANCING CONSTRUCTION MANANTALI AND DELTA DAMS. IT HOPES THEY WILL INDICATE AS WELL LEVEL THEIR SUPPORT FOR OMVS MEMBER STATES' VALLEY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.

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1. MET WITH MINISTER RURAL DEVT DIOP MAY 18 TO DISCUSS

QUESTIONS POSED REFTEL. HIS ANSWERS/COMMENTS WERE:

A. DONORS' MEETING HAS BEEN SLIPPED ONE MONTH; WILL TAKE PLACE DURING FIRST HALF OF JULY. PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH, AS OMVS PRESIDENT, WILL SHORTLY DESPATCH FURTHER LETTER TO ALL CHIEFS OF STATE WHO RECEIVED HIS APRIL 1 LETTER GIVING THE PRECISE DATE.

B. JULY MEETING WILL DEFINITELY NOT RPT NOT BE PRIMARILY A TECHNICAL SESSION TO REVIEW THE SYNTHESIS REPORT. OMVS FINAL TECHNICAL MEETING IS NOW IN SESSION AT NOUAKCHOTT. OMVS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WILL MEET HERE 21-24 MAY TO REVIEW WORK OF THEIR TECHNICIANS. DONORS AT JULY SESSION ARE EXPECTED TO BRING CONCRETE OFFERS OF AID.

C. DONORS WILL HAVE OVER ONE MONTH TO REVIEW THE SYNTHESIS REPORT WHICH WILL BE AVAILABLE BY END MAY. WHILE SYNTHESIS WILL CONSIST OF SOME EIGHT VOLUMES, IT SHOULD BE REMEMBERED DONORS HAVE LONG BEEN FAMILIAR WITH OMVS PLANS. PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH, IN HIS MARCH 1973 LETTER, INFORMED THE POTENTIAL DONOR CHIEFS OF STATE OF THE OMVS PROGRAM. LAST SUMMER'S FOLLOW-UP MISSION BY THE OMVS SEC GEN AND MALIAN MINISTER PROVIDED FURTHER INFORMATION. THE SYNTHESIS REPORT WILL, THEREFORE, CONTAIN NO SURPRISES FOR THE DONORS.

D. THE DONOR MEETING AGENDA WILL BE AVAILABLE IN EARLY JUNE. ITS CENTER PIECE WILL BE THE PRESENTATION BY EACH DONOR OF HIS GOVERNMENT'S INTENTIONS RE SPECIFIC PROJECTS WITH SPECIFIC SUMS. PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH WILL CHAIR THE OPENING SESSION.

E. OMVS AND THE GIRM ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE JULY MEETING. WHATEVER TECHNICAL MEETINGS THE DONORS MAY DESIRE WILL FOLLOW THE MAIN CONFERENCE SESSION. BUT, THE MINISTER STRESSED, THE FOCUS OF THE JULY SESSION IS NOT ON TECHNICAL ISSUES.

F. FOR THIS REASON OMVS EXPECTS THAT THE LEVEL OF DONOR REPRESENTATION WILL BE SUFFICIENTLY SENIOR TO PERMIT THE REP TO COMMIT HIS GOVERNMENT.

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2. AFTER COVERING ABOVE QUESTIONS, I ASKED MINISTER HOW HE RECONCILED FACT FURTHER CHINESE STUDIES WERE STILL UNDERWAY ON MANANTALI WITH THE STATED OMVS INTENT TO RECEIVE DURING JULY FUNDING PLEDGES FOR THAT CONSTRUCTION. WITHOUT HESITATION, MINISTER REPLIED THAT DONORS HAD LONG HAD AVAILABLE THE UNDP STUDY ON MANANTALI. THIS WAS AMPLE BASIS FOR THEIR DECISION. CHINESE WERE ENGAGED IN REFINING EARLIER STUDIES, NOT IN BASIC REAPPRAISAL OF MANANTALI.

(HE ADDED PARENTHETICALLY THAT CHINESE WERE ON SITE IN RESPONSE UNILATERAL REQUEST OF MALIANS WHO HAD SOUGHT MORE VIGOROUS RESEARCH INTO PROJECT THAN THEY FELT UNDP HAD PROVIDED.)

3. MINISTER COMMENTED THAT OMVS FULLY AWARE THAT PROBLEM OF SENEGAL RIVER VALLEY DEVELOPMENT MUST BE DEALT WITH AS WHOLE; IT WOULD BE UNREALISTIC TO ASK DONORS TO DEAL SOLELY WITH DAM CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS. ACCORDINGLY, AT JULY MEETING, OMVS MEMBER STATES WOULD ALSO PRESENT DONORS WITH DOSSIERS ON THEIR NATIONAL VALLEY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS FOR PROSPECTIVE BILATERAL AND/OR MULTILATERAL FINANCING. SOME OF THESE INDIVIDUAL DOSSIERS MAY BE LESS SPECIFIC THAN THOSE COVERING THE TWO DAMS. TO THAT EXTENT IT WOULD BE UNDERSTANDABLE IF DONORS COULD NOT OFFER PRECISE UNDERTAKINGS ON CERTAIN OF THESE NATIONAL DOSSIERS.

4. ASKED WHAT COUNTRIES HE EXPECTED TO ATTEND JULY MEETING, MINISTER REPLIED HE HAD AS YET FEW DEFINITE REPLIES IN HAND. "MOST OF WORLD" HAS BEEN INVITED. HE MENTIONED SPECIFICALLY ALL WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, US, CANADA, RUSSIA, CHINA AND THE ARAB OIL STATES. SAUDI ARABIA IS EXPECTED SEND REP; IT IS IN ANY CASE ALREADY FAMILIAR WITH OMVS PROJECTS WHICH WERE REVIEWED WITH SAG BY OULD DADDAH DURING HIS APRIL VISIT TO RIYADH. MINISTER ADDED THAT IT UNCLEAR WHETHER PEKING WILL SEND REP. (COMMENT: LAST WEEK I PUT QUESTION THEIR ATTENDANCE TO BOTH SOVIET AND PRC AMBASSADORS HERE. SOVIET REPLIED USSR ATTENDANCE WOULD DEPEND ON "WHETHER THERE ANYTHING CONCRETE TO DISCUSS;" CHINESE COMPLETELY SIDESTEPED SAYING HE HAD BEEN OUT OF COUNTRY FOR FEW WEEKS AND HAD NO INFORMATION ON SUBJECT. SAUDI AMBASSADOR TELLS ME HE HAS NOT RECEIVED INVITATION. INVITATION MAY NEVERTHELESS HAVE BEEN EXTENDED PERSONALLY BY OULD DADDAH TO KING FAISAL.)

5. TOLD MINISTER I WOULD SEND HIS REPLIES TO WASHINGTON AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BE BACK TO HIM ON ANY POINTS NEEDING FURTHER CLARIFICATION.

6. RE PARA 5 STATE REFTEL, ASSUME GORGOL VALLEY PROJECT WOULD BE ONE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT DOSSIER WHICH MAURITANIA WILL TABLE AS NATIONAL PROJECT. GORGOL VALLEY IS SUBJECT EXTENSIVE UNDP STUDY.

7. NEED CLARIFICATION FINAL QUESTION POSED STATE REFTEL. THIS EMBASSY HAS NOT BEEN INVOLVED OR KEPT ADVISED BY AID ON LIKELY CONTENTS OF SYNTHESIS REPORT. IF EMBASSY EXPECTED SUGGEST ALTERNATIVES/OPTIONS NOT RAISED IN REPORT, WHICH USG WOULD LIKE TO HAVE OMVS PREPARED TO DISCUSS IN JULY, PLEASE FURNISH SPECIFICS.
MURPHY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, MEETINGS, DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE110350
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DLFIELD, JR.: CED
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740132-0613
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740518/aaaaapik.tel
Line Count: 171
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 89583
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 APR 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <12 JUN 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OMVS DONOR CONFERENCE
TAGS: EAID, EFIN, MR, XX, OMVS
To: HONG KONG PEKING
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005